

State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**Date: February 13, 2004

Contact: Cooper Bratton
Phone: 919/733-5612

NC RANKS AMONG LOWEST STATES IN BUSINESS TAX BURDEN

RALEIGH –A recent industry-funded study by Ernst and Young finds that North Carolina's business tax burden ranks between 47th and 49th in the nation.

"These rankings clearly show why North Carolina has been ranked #1 in the country for business climate three years in a row," said Gov. Mike Easley. "Our overall tax burden keeps business costs low in our state. Companies looking to expand or relocate know that North Carolina is a great place to do business."

The study "Total State and Local Business Taxes" was released in January 2004. It shows a detailed state-by-state analysis of total state and local business taxes.

North Carolina ranked 49th in the nation in business taxes per dollar of private sector economic activity, 48th in business taxes per dollar of capital income and 47th in business taxes per employee.

To find more information about this study, go to www.statetax.org.

###